[Mr. G. Raman Menon.]

(*h*) if the answer to part (*g*) is in the negative, whether the Government will kindly consider the desirability of removing the restriction;

(*i*) whether any special concessions are allowed in respect of lands assigned or assignable for tea cultivation, over and above those allowed on ordinary *puduval* lands, and, if so, the reasons for the same; and

(*j*) whether the Government have investigated the desirability or otherwise of disafforesting any further areas from the reserved forests for tea cultivation?

**MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No lands have been earmarked for tea cultivation.

(*b*) 1,95,379 acres.

(*c*) (i) Area owned by Travancoreans and companies incorporated in Travancore—1,469 acres.

(ii) Area owned by Europeans and companies incorporated in Europe—1,90,223 acres.

(iii) Area owned by British Indian subjects—687 acres.

(*d*) 1,14,205 acres.

(*e*) and (*f*) These questions do not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

(*g*) Lands assigned for tea cultivation may be cultivated with other crops. But if any portion of the lands granted is cultivated with cardamoms or rubber or any other produce liable to an enhanced assessment, it is open to the Government to impose on that portion such rates of special assessment as may be applicable to the lands cultivated with such products.

(*h*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*g*).

(*i*) The concession allowed in respect of tea lands is that the lands will be free of assessment for three years on condition that a quarter of the area granted, is cleared and planted within the first two years. The concession is granted with a view to encourage the industry in the hills.

(*j*) The answer is in the negative.

*Report against subordinates of the Agricultural and Industries Departments.*

69. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many subordinate officers were reported against by the Directors of Agriculture and Industries, respectively, since the 2nd Medam 1096 and who they are?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): The Government are not prepared to state how many subordinate officers were reported against by the Directors of Agriculture and Industries respectively, as the information is confidential.

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**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether, apart from the confidential nature of the report, before these reports are acted upon, the officer against whom the report is made is given an opportunity to defend himself?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): That is generally the case.

*Report against Textile Expert.*

70. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Industries has made any report to the Government against the Textile Expert?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer given to Interpellation No. 69 by Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.

*Boring Machine.*

71. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information:

(*a*) when the boring machine was acquired and the reasons for its purchase;

(*b*) how many boring operations have been conducted since, at what places and for what purpose;

(*c*) whether the Director of Industries at any time wrote to the Government that economic minerals are not found in South Travancore and, if so, his reasons for getting up this machine in South Travancore; and

(*d*) whether the Director still holds that such minerals are not to be found in South Travancore?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The boring machine was purchased in October 1924 for prospecting for minerals and water.

(*b*) Boring operations were conducted by the Department of Industries for (1) prospecting for pyrrhotite at Mangamalai, (2) prospecting for water at the Government Fruit Farm at Mahadanapuram, (3) investigating Quilon Limestone at Paravoor and Nedungolam.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) In view of answer to part (*c*) this question does not arise.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to part (*b*) may I know whether any of these operations were found successful?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): These were only experiments to find out whether

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know from what data they proceed with the boring machines to perform operations?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): That is to find out whether water and mineral can be found at a certain depth.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Without investigating anything?

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